

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 31-40.

31. (New) A medical article wherein the internal surface of the article has been impregnated with a treatment solution comprising chlorhexidine, and wherein the chlorhexidine consists essentially of a mixture of chlorhexidine free base and a chlorhexidine salt.

32. (New) The article of Claim 31 wherein the treatment solution comprises between about one to five percent chlorhexidine.

33. (New) The article of Claim 31 further comprising silver sulfadiazine.

34. (New) The article of Claim 31 wherein the treatment solution further comprises a polymer.

35. (New) The article of Claim 34 wherein the treatment solution comprises between about one to ten percent of the polymer.

36. (New) The article of Claim 34 wherein the polymer is hydrophobic.

37. (New) The article of Claim 36 wherein the hydrophobic polymer is selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene, DACRON, polyester fabric, polyvinylchloride, polyurethane, biomedical silicone polymer, and silicon-polyurethane copolymer.

38. (New) The article of Claim 34 wherein the polymer is hydrophilic.

39. (New) The article of Claim 38 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber latex and biomedical polyurethane.

40. (New) The article of Claim 31 wherein the external surface of the article has been impregnated with a treatment solution comprising chlorhexidine, and wherein the chlorhexidine consists essentially of a mixture of chlorhexidine free base and a chlorhexidine salt.

41. (New) The article of Claim 31 wherein the article is a catheter.

42. (New) A method of preparing a medical article, the method comprising:

- (i) contacting the internal surface of the article with an impregnating solution comprising a solvent and chlorhexidine, and
- (ii) soaking the article in the solution for a period of time sufficient to allow the article to swell;

wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, reagent alcohol,

tetrahydrofuran, and mixtures thereof; and

and wherein the chlorhexidine consists essentially of a mixture of chlorhexidine free base and a chlorhexidine salt.

43. (New) The method of Claim 42 wherein the total weight of chlorhexidine is between about one and ten percent of the weight of the solution.

44. (New) The method of Claim 42 further comprising removing the article from the solution and drying the article.

45. (New) The method of Claim 42 further comprising contacting the article with a second solution, wherein the second solution comprises a polymer.

46. (New) A method of preparing a medical article, the method comprising:

- (i) contacting the internal surface of the article with an impregnating solution comprising a solvent, chlorhexidine free base and chlorhexidine salt, and
- (ii) soaking the article in the solution for a period of time sufficient to allow the article to swell;

wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of water, reagent alcohol, tetrahydrofuran, and mixtures thereof.

47. (New) The method of Claim 46 wherein the total weight of chlorhexidine is between about one and ten percent of the weight of the solution.

48. (New) The method of Claim 46 further comprising removing the article from the solution and drying the article.

49. (New) The method of Claim 46 further comprising contacting the article with a second solution, wherein the second solution comprises a polymer.